

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. An expandable container comprising at least two walls pivotably
5 coupled along at least two junctures so as to lie substantially flat in a collapsed position, a flap pivotably coupled to at least one of the walls, a pull cord coupled to the flap such that pulling the cord pivotably moves the flap relative to the walls thereby expanding the walls apart from one another from the collapsed position to an expanded position, a lid pivotably coupled to at least one of the walls for pivotable
10 movement between at least an open position in which the lid exposes an opening defined by the expanded container and a closed position in which the lid closes the opening, the cord being adapted to be disposed over the lid and be removably engageable to the container to retain the lid in the closed position.
- 15 2. The container of claim 1 wherein at least one of the walls defines a slot, and wherein the cord is adapted to be removably received and retained within the slot to retain the lid in the closed position.
- 20 3. The container of claim 1 wherein the container is adapted such that pulling only the cord in a single direction pivotably moves the flap relative to the walls thereby expanding the walls apart from one another from the collapsed position to an expanded position.
- 25 4. The container of claim 1 wherein the flap defines substantially the entirety of a bottom surface within the expanded container.
- 30 5. The container of claim 1 wherein expansion of the container to an expanded position creates an interference fit between the flap and at least one juncture between two adjacent walls, the interference fit frictionally maintaining the container in the expanded position.

6. The container of claim 1 wherein at least one of the walls defines a hole therein through which the cord is threaded.

5 7. The container of claim 1 wherein the walls, flap and lid fold to a substantially flat, collapsed position.

8. The container of claim 1 wherein the walls, flap and lid are of unitary construction.

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9. The container of claim 8 wherein the lid is an extension of a wall, and wherein the flap is an extension of a wall.

10. The container of claim 1 wherein the walls are oriented perpendicular
15 to the flap when in the expanded position.

11. The container of claim 10 wherein the walls that are adjacent one another are oriented perpendicular to one another.

12. An expandable container comprising at least two walls pivotably coupled along at least two junctures so as to lie substantially flat in a collapsed position, a flap pivotably coupled to at least one of the walls, a pull cord coupled to the flap such that pulling only the cord in a single direction pivotably moves the flap
5 relative to the walls thereby expanding the walls apart from one another from the collapsed position to an expanded position, a lid pivotably coupled to at least one of the walls for pivotable movement between at least an open position in which the lid exposes an opening defined by the expanded container and a closed position in which the lid closes the opening, the cord being adapted to be disposed over the lid
10 and be removably received and retained within at least one slot defined by at least one of the walls to retain the lid in the closed position.

13. The container of claim 12 wherein expansion of the container to an expanded position creates an interference fit between the flap and at least one
15 juncture between two adjacent walls, the interference fit frictionally maintaining the container in the expanded position.

14. The container of claim 12 wherein the flap defines substantially the entirety of a bottom surface within the expanded container.

15. A method of expanding and closing an expandable container having at least two walls pivotably and a flap pivotably coupled to at least one of the walls, the method comprising pulling a pull cord coupled to the flap to pivotably move the flap relative to the walls to expand the walls apart from one another from a collapsed position to an expanded position, moving a lid pivotably coupled to at least one of the walls from an open position in which the lid exposes an opening defined by the expanded container to a closed position in which the lid closes the opening, positioning the cord over the lid, and removably engaging the cord with the container to retain the lid in the closed position.

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16. The method of claim 15 wherein pulling the cord coupled to the flap includes pulling only the cord in a single direction to expand the container.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein moving the lid from the open position to the closed position and positioning the cord over the lid include pulling the cord over the lid to pivotably move the lid from the open position to the closed position.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein removably engaging the cord with the container comprises positioning the cord within at least one slot defined by at least one of the walls of the container.

19. The container of claim 15 wherein pulling the cord coupled to the flap creates an interference fit between the flap and at least one juncture between two adjacent walls of the container to frictionally maintain the container in the expanded position.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein pulling the cord coupled to the flap positions the flap to define substantially the entirety of a bottom surface within the expanded container.